Delay in Implementing Government Scheme

†3575 PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that it takes too much time in completing Government schemes due to several reasons;

(b) the reasons behind this delay; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to remove these shortcomings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M. V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) While every effort is made for timely implementation of various schemes, there have been several probable factors reported for slow progress, *inter alia,* delay in clearances from various agencies; law and order problem in certain States; procedural delays; inadequate provision of funds; institutional capacity of implementing agencies, non-receipt/late receipt of the proposals from the State Governments as well as utilization certificates; delays in releasing matching share by State Government and recruitment and training process.

(c) Several steps have been taken from time to time to remove these constraints, such as creating monitoring and evaluation mechanisms at different levels of Central and State Government as part of the programme guidelines; carrying out evaluation to asses the effectiveness of the delivery systems and impact of the programme/ schemes by programme Evaluation Organization of Planning Commission; recently introduced practice of placing 'Outcome Budget' of Central Ministries/Departments before the Parliament every year, and half yearly performance review of the Plan schemes of Central Ministries/ Departments. These measures are expected to ensure better coordination within arms of the Government.

Global Indian Survey

3576. SHRIMATI PREMACARIAPPA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the global Indian Survey conducted by A. C. Nielsen for B.B.C. World;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government on the findings of survey and the steps taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M. V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (c) The Global Indian Survey conducted by A.C. Nielsen for B.B.C. World gives information regarding media consumption, cultural uniqueness and international interest of Indian consumers. The survey is an important tool for advertisers and international marketers interests in India.

Guidelines to Develop Backward Districts of country

3577. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalized the guidelines to develop the backward districts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay; and

(d) the time by when these are likely to be finalized and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M. V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Guidelines for the Backward Regions Grant Fund will be finalized after obtaining necessary approvals to the scheme.

Special status to Bihar

†3578. SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the proposal passed by the Bihar Legislative Assembly in which a demand has been made to grant the special status to Bihar;

(b) whether any memorandum or request has been received from the State Government in this regard; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.